

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05567 142048Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 ACDA-12 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /060 W

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R 140710Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3789

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5567

PERSONAL FOR ADMIRAL WEISNER FROM AMBASSADOR ALSTON

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MAR MILI AS

SUBJECT: NPW VISITS IN THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC

REF: CINCPAC 120655Z JUL 78

1. YOU WILL HAVE OUR ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR ANY NPW VISITS TO AUSTRALIAN WATERS YOU CAN PROPOSE. WE HAVE JUST HAD THE BAINBRIDGE HERE, AND BY ALL ACCOUNTS, ITS VISIT WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS -- OPENING UP YET ANOTHER AUSTRALIAN PORT TO NPW VISITS TO FURTHERANCE OF BOTH USG AND GOA POLICY OBJECTIVES.

2. WE BELIEVE, AS A LONG-TERM GOAL, THAT INCREASING NUMBERS OF NPW VISITS TO AN INCREASING NUMBER OF AUSTRALIAN PORTS WILL, IN TIME, HELP WEAR DOWN THE OBJECTIONS WE HAVE MET IN TWO AUSTRALIAN STATES (NEW SOUTH WALES/SYDNEY AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA/ADELAIDE) TO THE POINT THAT AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE WE MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO ENVISION AN NPW VISIT TO THOSE STATES.

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3. THE ABORTIVE EFFORT TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR THE BAINBRIDGE TO VISIT OTHER SOUTH PACIFIC LOCATIONS HAS NOT, SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL, DONE ANY LASTING DAMAGE TO OUR OVERALL GOALS HERE. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE HAS HAD SOME TALKS WITH ANDREW PEACOCK ABOUT IT, AND WE HAVE HAD FURTHER TALKS WITH THE AUSTRALIANS HERE AND WILL BE PUTTING THESE BEFORE ALL

ADDRESSEES EARLY NEXT WEEK. THE GIST IS THAT WE MAY HAVE EXPECTED TOO MUCH TOO SOON BY MAKING THE BAINBRIDGE AVAILABLE TO VISIT THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC AT THIS TIME, AND PERHAPS NEED TO TAKE A BIT MORE TIME PREPARING THE WAY -- INCLUDING POSSIBLY ENLISTING THE SUPPORT OF THE AUSTRALIANS AND OTHERS TO HELP "CONDITION" THE SAMOANS, TONGANS AND OTHERS BEFORE WE LEAP RIGHT IN WITH AN OFFER OF AN NPW VISIT "NEXT WEEK".

4. BUT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE OVERALL POLICY OBJECTIVE IS NOT ONLY SOUND -- IT IS ATTAINABLE AS WELL. IT WILL HAVE OUR COMPLETE SUPPORT. ALSTON

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Message Attributes

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